



North Riding of Yorkshire County Council

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH.

1940.

North Riding of Yorkshire County Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH.

1940.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1940.**

To the Members of the North Riding of Yorkshire County Council.

Mr. Chairman, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Public Health Service of the County Council for the year 1940. I regret that pressure of work owing to abnormal conditions has delayed the publication of this report on the public health administration of the North Riding during the year under review: during the whole of that year Dr. Andrew Davidson, now Chief Medical Officer to the Department of Health, Scotland, acted as County Medical Officer and to him must be given the credit for the administrative arrangements made during 1940.

For reasons of economy the report has, in accordance with the general recommendations of the Ministry of Health, been made as brief as possible, but certain essential tabular statements have been included as in previous years. I need not stress further the interim character of this report: I give below a few comments on the various aspects of the activities of the County Medical Officer's department during 1940.

(i) Vital Statistics.

The Statistical Tables which follow immediately on this introduction show the estimated population of the administrative County for 1940 to have been 336,470: the birth rate to have been 15·5 in place of 16·0 for 1939: the death rate to have been 13·8 in place of 12·6 and the infant mortality rate to have been 48·1 in place of 52·3. The birth rates and death rates for the various County Districts are given in Tables 1 and 2.

(ii) Infectious Diseases.

There was no major outbreak of infectious disease during 1940, but the deaths of 25 persons were certified as due to diphtheria as compared with 12 in 1939 and 11 in 1938. Every encouragement and assistance was given to district Medical Officers of Health in promoting diphtheria immunisation schemes.

It will be noted that the death rate for diarrhoeal diseases of children under the age of 2 years is still increasing in urban areas. This rate was 3·58 for 1,000 births in 1938, 4·49 in 1939 and 5·16 in 1940. It is difficult to ascribe a reason for this but I am afraid it will further increase before the end of hostilities as young married women are called for service in the factories, leaving their babies to be cared for by neighbours. It is believed that many deaths from "diarrhoea" in children are due to infection by the dysentery group of organisms. Much work requires to be done to elucidate this problem: the co-operation of the family practitioner with an efficient and accessible laboratory service would probably give very useful information in the incidence and character of infective diarrhoeal conditions in adults and children.

(iii) Cancer.

The deaths ascribed to "Cancer" in the Administrative County remained steady being 569 (the same as 1938) as compared with 549 in 1939. The outbreak of war prevented the preparation of a comprehensive scheme under the Cancer Act, 1939: the Ministry of Health has postponed on several occasions the final date for the submission of schemes.

(iv) Maternity and Child Welfare.

The arrangements made in accordance with the Public Health Committee's Scheme under the Midwives Act, 1936, continued during the year: in view of the complexity of the problem of providing a domiciliary midwifery service in districts of the varied character found in the North Riding, the scheme can be said to be working most satisfactorily.

The demand for maternity hospital accommodation is still increasing but 86% of confinements in the Riding were carried out by the domiciliary service. The arrangements for the admission of patients requiring institutional accommodation continued as in previous years: unsuitable housing conditions as well as the need for the services of a skilled obstetrician are the circumstances determining the admission of cases at the cost of the County Council.

(v) Tuberculosis.

The death rate from pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis showed a slight upward swing during 1940: the figures are lower than those of 1938 but in view of the cumulative effects of various environmental factors operating in war-time these figures will probably increase materially in the next few years.

(vi) Blind Persons.

The number of blind persons (as defined by the Blind Persons Acts) on the register on 31-12-40 was 791 as compared with 694 in 1938 and 757 in 1939. During the year grants were made in accordance with the County Council's Scale to 427 unemployable blind persons.

(vii) Supervision of Milk Supplies.

During 1940 the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries issued 457 "attested" licences: the total number of "tuberculin tested" herds and "accredited" herds supervised by the Public Health Committee under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders were 146 and 218 respectively as compared with 143 and 183 in 1939.

(viii) Public Assistance.

Progress was made during the year in the construction of the Emergency Hospital at Northallerton and the new Nurses' home at Guisborough. They are being erected by the Ministry of Works and Buildings and the County Council respectively. Considerable difficulty was experienced at times in securing suitable and sufficient accommodation for the chronic sick persons who made application for institutional relief at various times during the year.

(ix) Mental Deficiency.

The accommodation at Claypenny Colony, Easingwold, administered by the Committee for the care of the Mentally Defective has been fully taxed during the year. As in previous years certain medical officers on the staff of the County Medical Officer acted as Certifying Officers under the Mental Deficiency Acts and gave material assistance to the Statutory Committee in the course of their duties: the assistant school medical officers and the school nurses also assisted in the ascertainment of mental defects.

(x) Civil Defence.

The staff of the County Health Department expended a considerable portion of their time and energy on the administration and operation of the Civil Defence Casualty Services during the year. Many alterations and improvements on the lines set out in departmental circulars were made and the close co-operation with the medical officers of health of the County districts continued. Frequent memoranda of instructions to the same officers were issued as a result of the Government Circulars dealing with the casualty and allied civil defence services and on behalf of my predecessor I desire to place on record my appreciation of their support and enthusiasm which never flagged in spite of the claims of their peace-time duties and the varied instructions given in successive circulars.

Several groups of "evacuees" were received in the Riding during the year: as regards children of school age, reference has been made in the report of the School Medical Officer for 1940 to the North Riding Education Committee.

Briefly the cleanliness of evacuated persons showed an improvement over similar conditions in 1939, but it is a fact that the percentage of children found to be verminous is greater among evacuees than among those normally resident in the Riding. Since the end of the year under review a Psychiatric Social Worker has been appointed by the County Council at the request of the Ministry of Health to assist billeting authorities by advising regarding the possible lines of treatment in cases where conflicting standards of behaviour cause friction in the households of recipients.

(xi) Venereal Diseases.

During the year under review the County Council's Scheme continued to function with only minor alterations. Quarterly enquiries were made to ascertain if any increase in the incidence of these diseases had been observed but neither specialist medical officers in charge of clinics, general practitioners nor medical personnel in the Services were able to give confirmatory details of such increase.

In conclusion, although this is not relevant to the report for 1940, I should like to express my gratitude for the assistance rendered to me by the Chairman and members of the various Committees of the Council associated with the activities of the County Health Department since commencing my duties early in 1941 : also my thanks to the members of the staff of the Department for their loyal assistance and to my colleagues in other departments for their kind co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. FRASER,

County Medical Officer of Health

January, 1942.

TABLE 1.

Number of Births in each District during 1940.

DISTRICT.	Estimated population for birth-rate, 1940.	Total Live Births.	Illegiti- mate Live Births.	Birth- rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	Excess of Births over Deaths. (Natural increase)	Natural Increase per 1,000 popu- lation.
A.—URBAN.						
1. Eston	29,460	614	32	20·8	216	7·3
2. Guisborough	7,676	135	4	17·6	13	1·7
3. Loftus	7,181	101	3	14·1	-2	..
4. Malton	4,254	71	6	16·7	12	2·8
5. Northallerton	5,274	78	7	14·8	9	1·7
6. Pickering	4,130	52	4	12·6	-5	..
7. Redcar	23,860	349	29	14·6	6	·3
8. Richmond	5,849	118	11	20·2	55	9·4
9. Saltburn and Marske	6,843	74	4	10·8	-22	..
10. Scalby	5,263	63	4	12·0	7	1·3
11. Scarborough	40,310	430	44	10·7	-229	..
12. Skelton and Brotton ..	12,480	185	6	14·8	40	3·2
13. Thornaby-on-Tees	20,870	430	14	20·6	158	7·6
14. Whitby	11,550	185	12	16·0	..	..
Total Urban	185,000	2,885	180	15·6	258	1·4
B.—RURAL.						
1. Aysgarth	4,160	51	3	12·3	-10	..
2. Bedale	7,221	110	11	15·2	16	2·2
3. Croft	2,169	39	3	18·0	19	8·8
4. Easingwold	10,790	161	16	14·9	12	1·1
5. Flaxton	18,200	311	10	17·1	123	6·8
6. Helmsley	5,000	62	6	12·4	6	1·2
7. Kirbymoorside	4,865	67	7	13·8	-4	..
8. Leyburn	6,769	96	8	14·2	9	1·3
9. Malton	6,009	89	7	14·8	11	1·8
10. Masham	2,158	21	1	9·7	-15	..
11. Northallerton	8,213	119	8	14·5	5	·6
12. Pickering	5,511	72	8	13·1	-9	..
13. Reeth	2,240	29	1	12·9	-8	..
14. Richmond	13,300	335	20	25·2	195	14·7
15. Scarborough	7,362	87	4	11·8	-9	..
16. Startforth	4,636	59	3	12·7	-7	..
17. Stokesley	16,370	238	11	14·5	7	·4
18. Thirsk	12,820	209	16	16·3	..	..
19. Wath	2,097	26	2	12·4	2	1·0
20. Whitby	11,580	160	7	13·8	-21	..
Total Rural	151,470	2,341	152	15·5	322	2·1
Administrative County ..	336,470	5,226	332	15·5	580	1·7

TABLE 2.

Number of Deaths in each District during 1940.

DISTRICT.	Estimated population for death-rate, 1940.	Total deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths under 1 year.	Total infantile mortality per 1,000 live births.	Illegitimate children, deaths under 1 year.	Illegitimate children, deaths under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births.
A.—URBAN.							
1. Eston ..	29,460	398	13·5	30	48·6	..	..
2. Guisborough ..	7,676	122	15·9	9	64·7	..	..
3. Loftus ..	7,181	103	14·3	1	9·9	..	..
4. Malton ..	4,254	59	13·9	5	68·5	..	..
5. Northallerton ..	5,274	69	13·1	2	25·3	..	..
6. Pickering ..	4,130	57	13·8	3	56·6	..	..
7. Redcar ..	23,860	343	14·4	21	60·2	1	35·7
8. Richmond ..	5,849	63	10·8	5	42·0	..	..
9. Saltburn and Marske	6,843	96	14·0	6	78·9	..	..
10. Scalby ..	5,263	56	10·6	1	15·9	1	250·0
11. Scarborough ..	40,310	659	16·3	18	41·7	3	69·8
12. Skelton & Brotton ..	12,480	145	11·6	9	48·1	..	..
13. Thornaby-on-Tees ..	20,870	272	13·0	33	76·7	1	71·4
14. Whitby ..	11,550	185	16·0	7	36·6	1	71·4
Total Urban ..	185,000	2,627	14·2	150	51·6	7	38·9
B.—RURAL.							
1. Aysgarth ..	4,160	61	14·7	2	37·7	..	..
2. Bedale ..	7,221	94	13·0	7	63·6	3	272·7
3. Croft ..	2,169	20	9·2	2	51·3	..	..
4. Easingwold ..	10,790	149	13·8	3	18·4	1	62·5
5. Flaxton ..	18,200	188	10·3	20	64·3	1	100·0
6. Helmsley ..	5,000	56	11·2	1	15·6	..	..
7. Kirbymoorside ..	4,865	71	14·6	..	..	..	..
8. Leyburn ..	6,769	87	12·9	7	70·7	..	..
9. Malton ..	6,009	78	13·0	2	22·5	..	..
10. Masham ..	2,158	36	16·7	..	..	..	..
11. Northallerton ..	8,213	114	13·9	5	41·0	1	125·0
12. Pickering ..	5,511	81	14·7	2	27·0	..	..
13. Reeth ..	2,240	37	16·5	2	69·0	1	1,000·0
14. Richmond ..	13,300	140	10·5	18	53·6	4	200·0
15. Scarborough ..	7,362	96	13·0	4	46·0	..	..
16. Startforth ..	4,636	66	14·2	5	84·7	..	..
17. Stokesley ..	16,370	231	14·1	6	24·3	1	90·9
18. Thirsk ..	12,820	209	16·3	13	61·9	1	62·5
19. Wath ..	2,097	24	11·4	2	76·9	..	..
20. Whitby ..	11,580	181	15·6	3	18·4	..	..
Total Rural ..	151,470	2,019	13·3	104	43·9	13	85·5
Administrative County ..	336,470	4,646	13·8	254	48·1	20	102·6

TABLE 3.

Notifications of Infectious Disease in 1940, as given in the weekly returns rendered by Medical Officers of Health.

DISTRICT.	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Cholera.	Plague.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Acute Polio-encephalitis.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Typhus Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Continued Fever.	Trench Fever.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Erysipelas.	Malaria (at home).	Malaria (abroad).	Chickenpox.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Anthrax.	Puerperal Pyrexia
A.—URBAN.																									
1. Eston	90	52	..	36	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	13	6	..	2
2. Guisborough	6	2	..	26	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	4	..	..	..	9	2	..	4
3. Loftus	16	15	..	9	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	6	3	..	1
4. Malton	7	11	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	11	..	..
5. Northallerton	6	4	..	10	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	25	..	..	3
6. Pickering	9	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
7. Redcar	39	14	..	34	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	..	..	..	109	3	..	..
8. Richmond	46	1	..	10	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	143	37	..	..
9. Saltburn & Marske	11	1	..	11	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	89	..	..	..
10. Scalby	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	8	2	..	..
11. Scarborough	54	53	1	28	..	..	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	10	..	..	..	17	46	..	3
12. Skelton & Brotton	9	15	1	3	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..
13. Thornaby-on-Tees	43	3	1	52	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	18	..	..	2	144	12	..	2
14. Whitby	30	25	..	29	..	..	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	241	5	..	3
Total Urban	376	199	3	248	..	..	54	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	11	7	65	..	..	3	819	127	..	20
1939	376	209	11	173	..	..	2	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	78	..	..	5	9	57	..	28
B.—RURAL.																									
1. Aysgarth	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	19	..	2
2. Bedale	6	8	..	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	17	..	..	..
3. Croft	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..
4. Easingwold	53	20	..	18	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	38	52	..	..	1
5. Flaxton	38	13	1	9	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	4	165	7	..	1
6. Helmsley	14	4	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	20	1	..	1
7. Kirbymoorside	85	8	..	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	6	..	..	2
8. Leyburn	15	1	..	6	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	65	14	..	..
9. Malton	13	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	48	8	..	1
10. Masham	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..
11. Northallerton	5	6	2	7	..	..	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	33	..	..	..
12. Pickering	16	9	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	..	7	..	..	1
13. Reeth	7	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	..	..	..	8	4	..	2
14. Richmond	77	14	2	31	..	..	30	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	4	135	28	..	4
15. Scarborough	3	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	17	1	..	..
16. Startforth	25	2	1	9	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	1	..	..
17. Stokesley	24	19	..	24	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	41	18	..	1
18. Thirsk	11	17	..	8	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	44	..	..	..
19. Wath	1	7	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	25	..	..	1
20. Whitby	12	7	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	87	..	..	1
Total Rural	412	139	8	159	..	..	49	7	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	3	54	..	1	77	851	101	..	18
1939	384	123	7	119	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	5	38	..	1	152	71	45	..	17
Administrative County	788	338	11	407	..	..	103	10	2	3	..	..	..	..	12	10	119	..	1	80	1670	228	..	38
1939	760	332	18	292	..	..	5	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	11	20	116	..	1	157	80	102	..	45

TABLE 4.

Number of Deaths from Infectious Diseases in each District during 1940.

DISTRICT.	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.		Smallpox.		Measles.		Whooping cough.		Diarrhoea under 2 years.	
	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 births.
A.—URBAN.														
1. Eston	7	·24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3.24
2. Guisborough	1	7.19
3. Loftus	2	·28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Malton	1	·24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	13.70
5. Northallerton
6. Pickering
7. Redcar	1	·04	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	11.46
8. Richmond	1	·17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Saltburn and Marske	1	·15	1	·15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Scalby	1	15.87
11. Scarborough	2	·05	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	·05	2	4.63
12. Skelton and Brotton..	1	5.35
13. Thornaby-on-Tees	3	6.98
14. Whitby ..	1	·09	1	·09	..	..	..	..	1	·09	..	..	..	..
Total Urban ..	2	·01	16	·09	..	..	..	..	1	·005	2	·01	15	5.16
B.—RURAL.														
1. Aysgarth
2. Bedale	1	·14	..	..	..	..	1	·14	..	..	..	..
3. Croft	1	25.64
4. Easingwold	1	·09	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Flaxton	2	·11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Helmsley
7. Kirbymoorside	1	·21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Leyburn
9. Malton	1	·17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Masham
11. Northallerton	1	·12	2	·24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. Pickering	1	13.51
13. Reeth
14. Richmond	1	·08	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5.95
15. Scarborough
16. Startforth	1	16.95
17. Stokesley	1	·06	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18. Thirsk	1	4.76
19. Wath
20. Whitby	1	·09	..	..	..	..
Total Rural	9	·06	2	·01	..	..	2	·01	..	..	6	2.53
Administrative County ..	2	·006	25	·07	2	·006	..	..	3	·009	2	·006	21	3.98

TABLE 5.

Number of Deaths from Infectious Diseases in each District during 1940.

DISTRICT.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				Other Tuberculosis.				All Tuberculosis.				Influ- enza.		Pneu- monia.		Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases.		Cancer.	
	Primary Notifications.	Deaths.	Notification-rate per 100 deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Primary Notifications.	Deaths.	Notification-rate per 100 deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Primary Notifications.	Deaths.	Notification-rate per 100 deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.
A.—URBAN.																				
1. Eston	18	19	94.7	.64	3	5	60.0	.17	21	24	87.5	.81	3	.10	32	1.09	40	1.36	40	1.36
2. Guisborough	8	3	266.7	.39	1	..	..	..	9	3	300.0	.39	5	.65	1	.13	14	1.82	9	1.17
3. Loftus	1	4	25.0	.56	4	1	400.0	.14	5	5	100.0	.70	2	.28	6	.84	8	1.11	16	2.23
4. Malton	..	1	..	.24	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	.24	2	.47	2	.47	6	1.41	7	1.65
5. Northallerton	..	2	..	.38	..	1	..	.19	..	3	..	.57	3	.57	6	1.14	1	.19	9	1.71
6. Pickering	3	1	300.0	.24	..	1	..	.24	3	2	150.0	.48	..	..	1	.24	4	.97	3	.73
7. Redcar	13	12	108.3	.50	8	2	400.0	.08	21	14	150.0	.59	13	.54	13	.54	38	1.59	52	2.18
8. Richmond	4	1	400.0	.17	1	1	100.0	.17	5	2	250.0	.34	1	.17	2	.34	7	1.20	3	.51
9. Saltburn and Marske	3	1	300.0	.15	1	..	..	..	4	1	400.0	.15	8	1.17	1	.15	6	.88	12	1.75
10. Scalby	..	1	..	.19	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	.19	1	.19	1	.19	1	.19	10	1.90
11. Scarborough	7	17	41.2	.42	1	4	25.0	.10	8	21	38.1	.52	6	.15	29	.72	47	1.17	87	2.16
12. Skelton and Brotton	10	2	500.0	.16	5	..	..	..	15	2	750.0	.16	2	.16	7	.56	11	.88	22	1.76
13. Thornaby-on-Tees	5	15	33.3	.72	1	3	33.3	.14	6	18	33.3	.86	7	.34	21	1.01	18	.86	33	1.58
14. Whitby	7	6	116.7	.52	5	3	166.7	.26	12	9	133.3	.78	5	.43	3	.26	13	1.13	27	2.34
Total Urban	79	85	92.9	.46	30	21	142.9	.11	109	106	102.8	.57	58	.31	125	.68	214	1.16	330	1.78

TABLE 6.

Number of Deaths from Infectious Diseases in each District during 1940.

DISTRICT.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis.		Other maternal causes.		Congenital malformations, birth injury, premature birth, infantile disease.	
	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 births.	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 births.	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 births.
A.—URBAN.						
1. Eston .. ..	..	..	1	1.62	14	22.69
2. Guisborough ..	..	..	2	14.39	6	43.17
3. Loftus .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	19.80
4. Malton	1	13.70	1	13.70	3	41.10
5. Northallerton ..	..	..	..	..	1	12.66
6. Pickering .. ..	..	..	..	..	3	56.60
7. Redcar .. ..	..	..	1	2.87	15	42.98
8. Richmond	1	8.40	..	..	4	33.61
9. Saltburn and Marske	..	..	..	..	7	92.11
10. Scalby .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Scarborough ..	2	4.63	1	2.31	8	18.52
12. Skelton and Brotton ..	1	5.35	..	..	2	10.70
13. Thornaby-on-Tees ..	..	..	..	..	19	44.19
14. Whitby .. ..	..	..	..	..	6	31.41
Total Urban ..	5	1.72	6	2.06	90	30.94
B.—RURAL.						
1. Aysgarth .. ..	..	..	1	18.87	1	18.87
2. Bedale .. ..	..	..	..	..	6	54.55
3. Croft .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	25.64
4. Easingwold .. ..	..	..	..	..	3	18.40
5. Flaxton	1	3.22	1	3.22	8	25.72
6. Helmsley .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Kirbymoorside ..	..	..	..	..	1	14.93
8. Leyburn .. ..	..	..	..	..	6	60.61
9. Malton .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	11.24
10. Masham .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Northallerton ..	..	..	..	..	3	24.59
12. Pickering .. ..	..	..	1	13.51	3	40.54
13. Reeth .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	34.48
14. Richmond .. ..	..	..	..	..	12	35.71
15. Scarborough ..	..	..	..	..	3	34.48
16. Startforth .. ..	..	..	1	16.95	4	67.80
17. Stokesley .. ..	..	..	1	4.05	5	20.24
18. Thirsk .. ..	..	..	1	4.76	7	33.33
19. Wath .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	76.92
20. Whitby .. ..	..	..	1	6.13	3	18.40
Total Rural ..	1	.42	7	2.95	70	29.55
Administrative County ..	6	1.14	13	2.46	160	30.31

TABLE 7.—DEATHS, with their causes, in each District during 1944.

[illegible]

